

Moldova

Moldova is a small landlocked Eastern European country. It shares borders with Romania and Ukraine. It is part of the continent of Europe.

The capital and largest city of Moldova is Chişinău.

Moldova has a population of 3.3 million people.

The majority of Moldovans identify their mother tongue as either Moldovan or Romanian. The Moldovan language is virtually the same as Romanian.



Flag



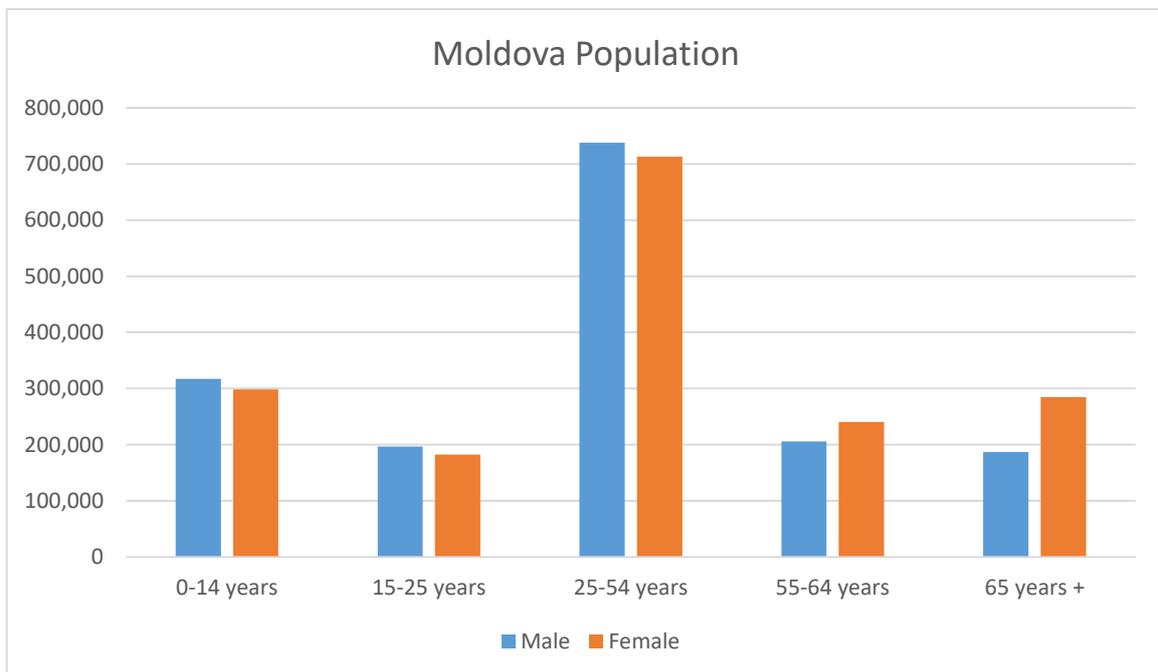
The national flag of Moldova has equal vertical stripes of blue, yellow and red. It is based on the colour scheme of the flag of Romania but Moldova's blue is lighter.

In the centre of the flag is a dark gold (brown) coloured Roman eagle outlined in black with a red beak and talons. The eagle is carrying a yellow cross in its beak as well as carrying a yellow sceptre in its left talons and a green olive branch in its right talons. On the breast of the Roman eagle is a shield which is divided horizontally red over blue and includes an aurochs head, a star, a rose, and a crescent all in yellow and outlined in black.

Population

People from Moldova are called Moldovans.

The breakdown of main ethnic groups living in Moldova are: Moldovan 75.1%, Romanian 7%, Ukrainian 6.6%, Gagauz 4.6%, Russian 4.1%, Bulgarian 1.9%, and other 0.8%



18.31% of people living in Romania are aged 0-14 years.

11.27% of people living in Romania are aged 15-24 years.

43.13% of people living in Romania are aged 25-54 years.

13.26% of people living in Romania are aged 55-64 years.

14.03% of people living in Romania are aged 65 years and over.

Big Cities

Less than half (54%) of the Moldovan population live in urban areas of towns and cities.

Its capital and largest city is Chişinău:

Amid blocks of Soviet-style architecture are landmarks including the neoclassical Nativity Cathedral.

The dome-topped church anchors Chişinău's Cathedral Park, a plaza with a Triumphal Arch celebrating Russia's 19th-century victory over the Ottoman Empire.

Stephen the Great Central Park is named for a Moldovan prince who resisted Ottoman rule.



History

The country of Moldova has changed names and shifted country authorities a lot over the years.

The current country covers about two thirds of a region that was formerly known as Bessarabia. This region was a part of the Romanian principality of Moldavia until 1812. Then it was given over to Russia by its suzerain (*sovereign leader*), the sultan of the Ottoman Empire.



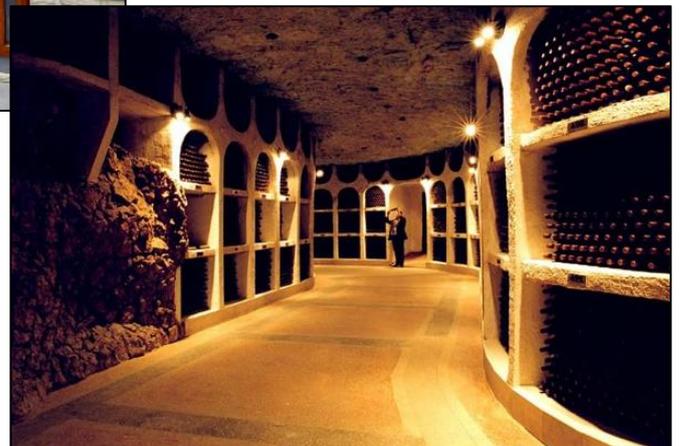
Bessarabia remained a province of the Russian Empire until after World War I, when it became a part of Greater Romania. In 1940 Russia annexed Bessarabia and combined it with the Moldovan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic to form Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic. Upon the collapse of the Soviet Union in August 1991, this republic declared its independence and took the name Moldova. It joined the Commonwealth of Independent States. In 1992 it became a member of the United Nations.

What is Moldova best known for?

Moldova is perhaps best known for its wine, which is absolutely delicious. Most Moldovan families make wine at home, so the wineries chiefly produce wines for export.



Cricova is a Moldovan winery, located in the town with the same name, 15 kilometres north of Chişinău. Famous wine cellars make it a popular place to visit.



Mimi Castle



The mansion of the Mimi family is a mansion and architectural monument of national importance. It was built at the end of the 19th century in the village of Bulboaca in the district Anenii Noi in Moldova.

When the building renovation was completed in 2016, the following was also completed: a museum, an art gallery for young artists, a conference hall, a hotel, a spa, a restaurant, some studios of both folk art and culinary arts, as well as several party halls: in the manor house are four large halls for 100 to 120 guests, two wine tasting rooms and six rooms in the basement.

Ștefan cel Mare Central Park



Ștefan cel Mare Central Park, also known as Stephen the Great Central Park, is the main park in Central Chișinău, Moldova.

It is the oldest park in Moldova and spans about 7 hectares (17 acres). The park was originally laid out in 1818 by Russian military engineers during the reign of Alexander I.

Under architect Bogdan Eitner, the present-day alleys were created, as well as hundreds of acacias, limes, and flower beds. The park was initially enclosed by a wicker fence to prevent cows, goats, and other animals from entering.

It has gained the nickname "The Park of the Lovers" in Chișinău due to its popularity as a meeting spot for couples.



The park contains 50 species of trees, some of which are quite old. The mulberries and acacias are between 130 and 180 years.

Money - Leu

The leu is the official currency of Moldova. Like the Romanian leu, it is subdivided into 100 bani.



Between 1918 and 1940 and again between 1941 and 1944, when Moldova was part of Romania, the Romanian leu was used. The Moldovan leu was established on 29 November 1993, following the creation of the independent Republic of Moldova.

Traditional Costume

The female's traditional garment consists of a white embroidered blouse, an embroidered vest trimmed with sheep fleece, and a white skirt with lace on the hem, usually covered by a black embroidered overskirt. The male costume consists of a white embroidered shirt, a vest similar to the women's, white pants, a hat decorated with peacock feathers or flowers, or a sheep fleece cap, and a wide belt. Both men and women wear *opinci*, leather shoes with leather laces that tie around the ankles



The costumes used to be entirely hand-made. Every young girl was supposed to be able to weave cloth and do elaborate embroidery. Now only folk music and dance groups wear national costumes, but most of these are mass-produced.

People who live in cities and towns dress like other Eastern or Western Europeans. Jeans and T-shirts are popular with teenagers and young people. Villagers wear everyday clothing fit for farming work: women wear flowery cotton or flannel dresses, and kerchiefs on their heads; men wear shirts and pants made of durable cloth, and caps or hats.

Recipe - Placinte (Filled pastry)

Ingredients:

Dough:

- 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups of flour
- 2 packages of yeast
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1 Tablespoon butter, melted
- 1 Tablespoon oil
- 1 teaspoon sugar

Filling:

- 1 cup ricotta cheese
- 1 Tablespoon butter
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon flour
- 2 Tablespoons milk
- 1 teaspoon sugar

Directions:

1. Dissolve the yeast in a bowl in about $\frac{1}{4}$ cup warm water. Add flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup at a time, until the batter is the consistency of thick sour cream. Dust the surface of the batter with flour. Set it aside to rise.
2. Put remaining flour into a large bowl, indenting the center of it to make a well. Add eggs, melted butter, and oil. Combine with yeast mixture.
3. Using very clean hands, knead the dough in the bowl, adding more flour a little at a time, until the dough no longer sticks to the bowl.
4. Make the filling. Combine ricotta cheese, butter, egg, milk, flour, sugar, and a dash of salt. Mix well.
5. Roll out the dough and cut it into 3-inch squares. Place a spoonful of cheese in the middle and fold the corners to make an envelope.
6. Brush with beaten egg and bake at 350° F 15 to 20 minutes. Serve warm.



Famous people - Maia Sandu

Maia Sandu is a Moldovan politician and the current President of Moldova. She is the first female president of Moldova.

Sandu was born on 24 May 1972 in the commune of Risipeni, in the Fălești District in the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic. The country was under the USSR at the time.



From 1989-1994, she majored in management at the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova (ASEM). From 1995-1998, she then majored in international relations at the Academy of Public Administration (AAP) in Chișinău. She went to study in the USA and in 2010, she graduated from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Sandu went on to work as Adviser to the executive director at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. Sandu speaks Russian, Spanish and English in addition to her native Romanian.

From 2012 she served as Minister of Education of Moldova. According to some polls from 2019, Sandu ranks among the three most trusted politicians in Moldova. She was president for 5 months in 2019 before her government collapsed. She was then re-elected in the 2020 election.